

TREND ON CONCERN ABOUT INFLATION, ENERGY SHORTAGES,

WATER AND AIR POLLUTION, 1972-1980¹

Q.11 Now I'd like to find out how worried or concerned you are about a number of problems I am going to mention: a great deal, a fair amount, not very much, or not at all. If you aren't really concerned about some of these matters, don't hesitate to say so.

		<u>June 1972</u>	<u>April 1974</u>	<u>May 1976</u>	<u>RFF 1980</u>	<u>Roper March</u>
Rise in prices and the cost of living.	<i>great deal</i>		33%	75%	79%	86%
	<i>fair amount</i>		12	21	17	11
	<i>not very much</i>		3	3	2	2
	<i>not at all</i>		1	1	2	1
	<i>no opinion</i>		1	0	0	1
	N	1302	1365	1071	1236	c.1500
	composite score	90	93			
Shortages of oil, gasoline, coal, natural gas, electricity and other fuels.	<i>great deal</i>	-	57	-	72	
	<i>fair amount</i>	-	24	-	18	
	<i>not very much</i>	-	13	-	5	
	<i>not at all</i>	-	5	-	3	
	<i>no opinion</i>	-	1	-	1	
	composite score	-	78	-		
Cleaning up our waterways and reducing water polluting.	<i>great deal</i>	61	51	57	38	54
	<i>fair amount</i>	29	35	32	45	33
	<i>not very much</i>	7	10	-	13	17
	<i>not at all</i>	1	2	2	3	2
	<i>no opinion</i>	2	2	2	1	1
	composite score	84	79	82		
Reducing air pollution.	<i>great deal</i>	60	46	55	36	
	<i>fair amount</i>	28	36	32	39	
	<i>not very much</i>	9	12	8	17	
	<i>not at all</i>	1	3	3	7	
	<i>no opinion</i>	2	3	2	1	
	Composite score	83	76	80		

¹ Data for 1972-1976 are from the "State of the Nation" studies done by the Potomac Institute. Only four of the items used in question 11 of the CEQ questionnaire were repeated from the Potomac Institute questionnaires. The composite index is adopted from the Potomac Institute studies. It is calculated by dropping the 'don't knows' and multiplying the number saying 'great deal' by 100, those saying 'fair amount' by 67, 'not very much' by 33 and 'not at all' by 0.

12. Here is a picture of a ladder. (NWD 8152) Suppose the top of the ladder represents the best possible natural environmental situation for our country; that is, all aspects of the environment--air, water, forests, wildlife, waste disposal, noise and the like. Suppose the bottom of the ladder represents the worst possible environmental situation for the United States. Please show me on which step of the ladder you think the environment in the United States is at the present time. (RECORD NUMBER CHOSEN BELOW)

mean 5.14

41%

Don't know..... 1%

13. On which step would you say it was about five years ago?

5.32

42%

Don't know..... 6%

14. Just as your best guess, if things go pretty much as they are now, where do you think the environment in the U.S. will be on the ladder, let us say, about five years from now?

5.08

43%

Don't know..... 7%

15. Thinking now just about the quality of the air in this area. Suppose the top of the ladder represents the cleanest air possible, and the bottom, the most polluted air possible. Please show me on which step of the ladder you think the air around here is at the present time.

6.38

44%

Don't know..... 2%

16. On which step would you say it was about five years ago?

6.31

45%

Don't know..... 8%

17. As your best guess, where will it be about five years from now?

6.04

46%

Don't know..... 6%

18. Now, thinking just about the quality of the water in the lakes and streams in this area. Suppose the top of the ladder represents the cleanest water possible and the bottom, the most polluted water possible. Please show me on which step of the ladder you think the water in the lakes and streams around here is at the present time.

5.64

47%

Don't know..... 9%

19. On which step would you say it was about five years ago?

5.72

48%

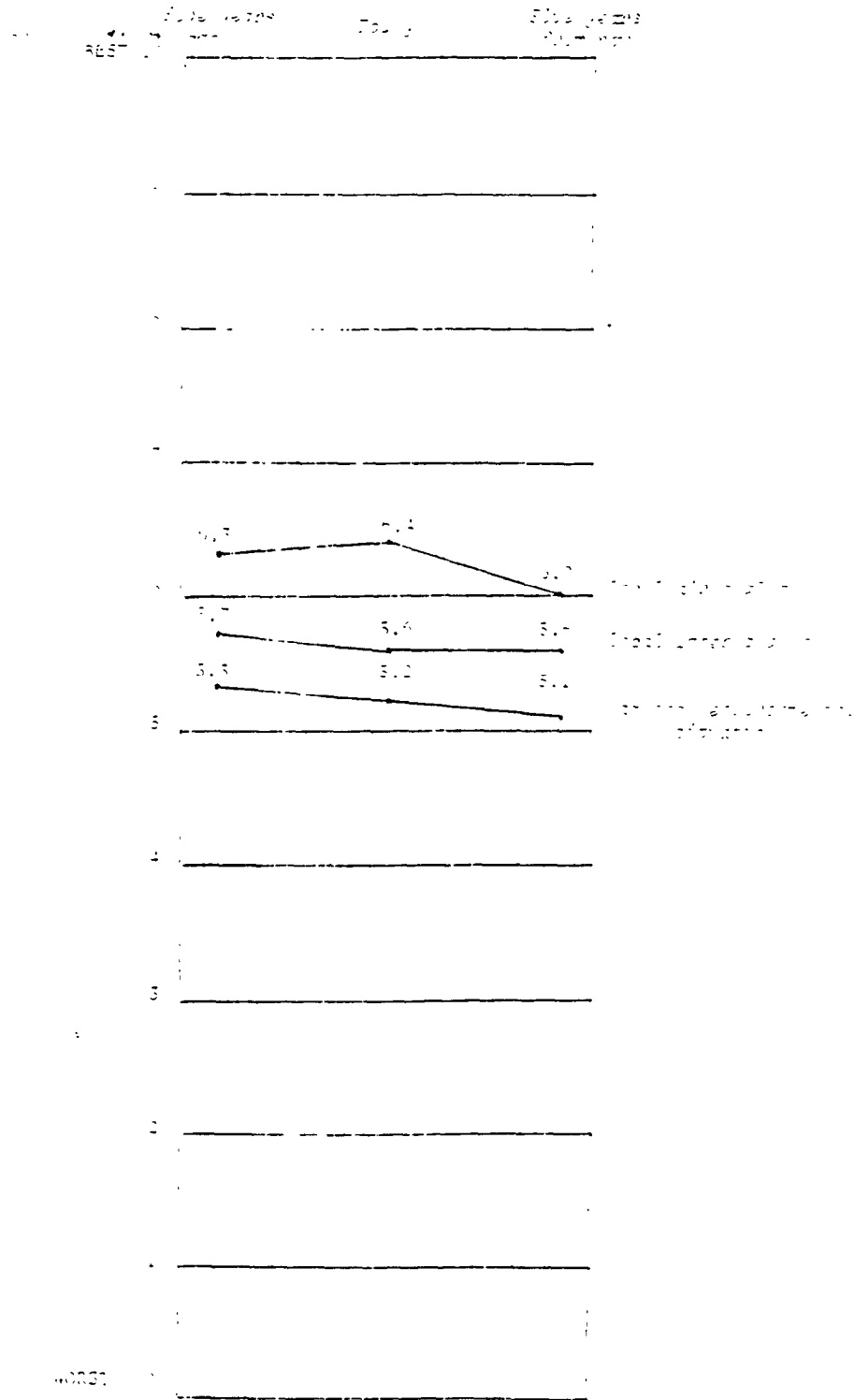
Don't know..... 13%

20. As your best guess, where will it be about five years from now?

5.62

49%

MEAN SELF ANCHORED LADDER RANKINGS OF
NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY, LOCAL WATER
QUALITY AND LOCAL AIR QUALITY FOR PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE 1



21. People are affected in different ways by the problems our country faces. For each of the problems I am going to mention, please tell me how much you, yourself, are affected in terms of the kind of life you live and your personal enjoyment of your surroundings. First, the energy shortage: would you say it affects you a great deal, a fair amount, just a little, or not at all? (ASK ABOUT EACH ITEM BELOW)

	<u>A great deal</u>	<u>Fair amount</u>	<u>Just a little</u>	<u>Not at all</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
a. The energy shortage?.....	54%	31%	10%	4%	-
b. Air pollution?.....	18	33	24	22	1
c. Unnecessary noise in your area?.....	8	15	25	32	1
d. OMITTED					
e. OMITTED					
f. Inflation?.....	33	11	3	1	2

No opinion

0 0

23. Now, I'd like to ask you about some specific aspects of the environment. If you would first think about the things I am going to mention please don't hesitate to say so. First, which one, factories, automobiles, or incinerators, is the major cause of air pollution in this country?

Factories.....	39%
Automobiles.....	45
Incinerators.....	-
Not sure.....	9

24. Nuclear power plants are built near bodies of water. Do you think that's because the water is used as another source of power, as a disposal place for waste, or is used for cooling purposes?

Another source of power.....	11%
A disposal place for waste.....	16
For cooling purposes.....	52
Not sure.....	21

25. Do you think cancer can be caused in rats by every chemical, by most chemicals, or only some chemicals if they are fed to rats in a large enough dose?

Every chemical.....	14%
Most chemicals.....	31
Only some chemicals.....	42
Not sure.....	12

26. From what you have heard or read, do you think we produce enough oil in this country to meet our present energy needs or do we have to import some oil from other countries?

Produce enough oil.....	29
Have to import some oil.....	63
Not sure.....	7

27. Do you think that it is possible for a nuclear power plant to explode and cause a mushroom-shaped cloud like the one at Hiroshima or don't you think that is possible?

Possible.....	52
Not possible.....	31
Not sure.....	16

I'm going to read you a short list of topics and incidents that have been mentioned in the news media over the past year or so. As I mention each, if you happen to have heard or read about it, would you please tell me what it refers to? (ASK ABOUT EACH ITEM)

a. Love Canal, near Niagara Falls, New York: can you tell me what happened there? (DO NOT READ LIST)

CORRECT: abandoned hazardous waste dump; chemical or toxic waste dump; place where chemical wastes have harmed people or made them move; where drums of toxic chemicals have leaked into the soil.....	22%	62/
PARTIALLY CORRECT: people moved out of their homes; place where there was a problem with the soil. NO REFERENCE TO CHEMICALS...	4	
INCORRECT.....	8	
Not sure.....	65	

b. The accident at Three Mile Island: can you tell me what happened there? (DO NOT READ LIST)

CORRECT: nuclear reactor accident; Harrisburg incident; accident that almost caused a meltdown.....	74	63/
PARTIALLY CORRECT: Presidential Commission; in Pennsylvania NO REFERENCE TO NUCLEAR POWER.....	3	
INCORRECT.....	4	
Not sure.....	19	

X c. Synfuels or synthetic fuels: can you tell me what they are? (DO NOT READ LIST)

CORRECT: gas or oil made from coal or oil shale or tar sands; coal gasification; coal liquidification or coal liquids.....	57	64/
PARTIALLY CORRECT: President Carter's new billion dollar plan; new source of energy recently proposed by President Carter and debated in Congress.....	3	
INCORRECT.....	15	
Not sure.....	22	

d. Acid rain: can you tell me what this is? (DO NOT READ LIST)

CORRECT: polluted rain that harms lakes by disturbing the growth of plants, algae and fish; rain that is like vinegar; air pollution in the rain that harms land and water; sulphur dioxide in the air.....	26	65/
PARTIALLY CORRECT: references to "rain" that do <u>not</u> include mention of air pollution.....	6	
INCORRECT.....	9	
Not sure.....	58	

29. Now I'd like to ask you some questions about air pollution. How serious do you feel air pollution is in this country--very serious, somewhat serious or not serious at all?

Very serious.....	35%	Not serious at all.	5%	6%
Somewhat serious..	35	No opinion.....	2	

30. How about in this area: how serious do you think air pollution is here?

Very serious.....	11	Not serious at all.	4%	6%
Somewhat serious...	39	No opinion.....	2	

31. As you may know, many of the nation's marsh and swamp areas have had water drained out of them so that the land can be used for residential areas, factories or farming. Some people say we should drain more of these areas because land for development is becoming harder to find. Other people say that these marsh and swamp areas should be kept as they are because they help maintain nature's balance by providing breeding areas for fish and feeding places for ducks among other things. Who do you agree with most--those who feel these swamp and marsh areas should continue to be drained, or those who feel they should be preserved in their natural state, or don't you have a strong feeling one way or the other?

Continue to drain.	10	No strong feeling..	11	63%
Preserve in natural state.....	65	Depends (vol.).....	8	
		No opinion.....	6	

32. Finding new places to build new industrial and power plants is sometimes difficult these days. I'm going to mention five types of buildings or sites. Assuming that they would be built and operated according to government environmental and safety regulations, you might or might not feel strongly about living close to them. For each type of plant please tell me the closest such a plant could be built from your home before you would want to move to another place or to actively protest, or whether it wouldn't matter to you one way or another how close it was? (IF DISTANCE GIVEN, GET DISTANCE IN MILES)

a. First, what about a ten-story office building?
mean=5.3 miles

Less than 1 mile..... 69/70

1 or more miles _____
(write in number)

Wouldn't matter one way or other. .

Don't want it at any distance
(vol.).....

No opinion.....

b. A power plant that uses coal for fuel?
mean=20.5 miles

Less than 1 mile..... 71/72

1 or more miles _____
(write in number)

Wouldn't matter one way or other.

Don't want it at any distance
(vol.).....

No opinion.....

c. A nuclear power plant?
mean=21.0 miles

Less than 1 mile..... 73/74

1 or more miles _____
(write in number)

Wouldn't matter one way or other.

Don't want it at any distance
(vol.).....

No opinion.....

d. A large industrial plant or factory?
mean=13.9 miles

Less than 1 mile..... 75/76

1 or more miles _____
(write in number)

Wouldn't matter one way or other.

Don't want it at any distance
(vol.).....

No opinion.....

e. How about a disposal site for hazardous waste chemicals if the government said disposal could be done safely and that the site would be inspected regularly for possible problems?
mean=31.1 miles

Less than 1 mile..... 77/78

1 or more miles _____
(write in number)

Wouldn't matter one way or other.

Don't want it at any distance
(vol.).....

No opinion.....

would you please tell me approximately how far away the following are from your home?
mean=13.8 miles

a. The nearest freshwater lake?

Less than 1 mile..... 6/7

1 or more miles _____
(write in number)

No opinion.....

b. The nearest river large enough for boating?
mean=13.3 miles

Less than 1 mile..... 8/9

1 or more miles _____
(write in number)

No opinion.....

c. The nearest industrial plant or power plant?
mean=7.9 miles

Less than 1 mile..... 10/11

1 or more miles _____
(write in number)

No opinion..... 14%

d. The nearest nuclear power plant that is either
operating now or under construction?
mean=90.8 miles

Less than 1 mile..... 12/13

1 or more miles _____
(write in number)

No opinion..... 52%

I am going to read you three points of view
regarding pollution control. Please tell me
which one best represents your opinion.

READ:

Protecting the environment is so
important that requirements and
standards cannot be too high, and
continuing improvement must be made
regardless of cost..... 42% 14/

OR

We have made enough progress on
cleaning up the environment that
we should now concentrate on
holding down costs rather than
requiring stricter controls..... 34%

OR

Pollution control requirements and
standards have gone too far; they
already cost more than they are
worth..... 13%

Depends (vol.)..... 5%

No opinion..... 5%

35. I am going to read you two statements about the quality of
our environment will cost more. I will read a
two choices to pay for the cost of cleaning up the
environment. The choice is to pay higher prices
for these products that will cost more to make if
we want to stop pollution. The other choice is to
pay higher taxes to have enough money available
for pollution control. Given these two choices,
would you prefer to pay higher prices or pay higher
taxes?

higher prices..... 40% 15/

higher taxes..... 17

Neither (vol.)..... 24

Both (vol.)..... 1

Depends (vol.)..... 7

No opinion..... 6

36. I am going to read you three statements about en-
vironmental protection and economic growth. Please
listen carefully and tell me which statement you
agree with the most.

READ:

We can achieve our current goals
of environmental protection and
economic growth at the same time..... 39% 16/

OR

We must relax environmental standards
in order to achieve economic growth.. 20

OR

We must accept a slower rate of
economic growth in order to protect
the environment..... 27

Depends (vol.)..... 1

No opinion..... 9

I am going to describe four different kinds of chemicals which studies have shown to cause cancer in some people. I would like you to tell me which one of the approaches listed on this card you think the Federal Government should take for each chemical. (HAND RESPONDENT CARD) The first approach is that the government should ban certain uses of the chemical. The second is that the government should require clear warning labels on all products using the chemical but let them continue to be sold. The third approach is that the government should not regulate the chemical at all. (READ EACH ITEM)

	<u>Ban</u>	<u>Warning label</u>	<u>NOT regulate</u>	<u>No opinion</u>	
a. The first kind of chemical that has been shown to cause cancer is one commonly used to preserve food like bacon. Which one approach should the government take? (PROBE: That is, chemicals like nitrites).....	33%	57%	5%	5%	17%
b. The second is a chemical used as an ingredient in some hair dyes.....	51	60	3	6	18%
c. The third is saccharin.....	16	66	12	-	12%
d. The fourth is a chemical used to color food like hot dogs, soft drinks and ice cream. (PROBE: that is, Red Dye #2).....	47	44	4	5	20%

38. Even though human beings may not be directly affected, there are various risks that some chemicals pose to the environment. I am going to describe some of these risks and ask you what action, if any, you think the government should take. (HAND RESPONDENT CARD) (READ EACH ITEM)

- a. First, the disposal of hazardous chemical wastes far out in the ocean where they harm the ocean environment where they are disposed. Do you think the government should prohibit the disposal, impose controls but not prohibit it, urge corporations to follow certain procedures but not require it, or not take any action at all?

	<u>38a.</u> <u>Disposal</u> <u>in ocean</u> (Col. 21)	<u>b.</u> <u>Chemicals</u> <u>in pesticides</u> (Col. 22)	<u>c.</u> <u>Disposal</u> <u>in rivers</u> (Col. 23)
Should prohibit.....	57%	36%	70%
Impose controls but not prohibit it....	29	52	21
Urge corporations to follow certain procedures but not require it.....	6	6	5
Not take any action at all.....	2	1	1
No opinion.....	7	4	3

- b. What about the use of chemicals such as certain pesticides which increase crop production but which kill wildlife. Again, looking at the card, what action, if any, do you think the government should take? (RECORD ABOVE)

- c. And, the current practice of releasing into rivers certain industrial chemicals which have been shown to harm some fish. What action, if any, do you think the government should take? (RECORD ABOVE)

X 39. Each year industry introduces thousands of new chemicals into the marketplace. Some people think that companies should be required to submit information to the government before any of the new chemicals can be used and that the government should require tests of those chemicals which it believes may be dangerous to the public. Other people feel that government screening of all new chemicals would be expensive, might keep potentially useful chemicals off the market and that it is enough for the government to take action after a chemical has been shown to cause a problem. How do you feel--should the government (1) wait until a chemical already in use has been shown to present a problem before taking action or (2) conduct an extensive screening program to try to make sure all chemicals are safe before they are used?

Wait until there is a problem... 3%

24/

Conduct screening programs
before chemical is used..... 33

Depends (vol.)..... 1

No opinion..... 4

40. Here is a list of several ways to get energy. (HAND RESPONDENT CARD) Looking ahead to the year 2000, and this nation's energy needs, which two or three of these sources of energy do you think we should concentrate on the most?

READ WHILE RESPONDENT LOOKS AT CARD:

This list includes coal; nuclear energy; energy conservation steps such as more and better home insulation and cars that get good mileage; water power from dams or waterfalls; solar energy including energy from the sun and the wind; oil and natural gas; and synfuels which are a new kind of fuel made by industrial plants which convert oil shale into oil or coal to a liquid or gas. Which two or three do you think we should concentrate on the most?

	40. Concentrate on most (Col.25)	41. Spend least effort (Col.26)
Coal.....	36 ⁹	9 ⁹
Nuclear energy.....	23	33
Energy conservation.....	33	5
Water power.....	31	10
Solar energy.....	61	6
Oil and natural gas.....	23	9
Synfuels.....	26	8
None.....	-	0
No opinion.....	2	15

42. At the present time the United States has 77 nuclear power plants in operation, 117 more are currently under construction. I am going to read out three statements about the use of nuclear power in the United States. With which statement do you most agree?

READ:

We should continue to build more nuclear power plants as needed.....	33%	27%
No more new plants should be planned but we should continue to use the ones already in operation and finish those now under construction.....	47	
We should stop building nuclear plants including those under construction and shut down the existing ones as soon as possible.....	20	
Uncertain.....	9	
No answer.....	2	

43. Solar energy is a very broad term that includes many ways of using the sun to produce energy. Here is a list of ways that can be used by individual home owners to produce energy from the sun. (HAND RESPONSE CARD) Please tell me which you have heard or read about and which you haven't.

	<u>Have heard about</u>	<u>Have NOT heard about</u>
a. Solar panels to heat water for homes.....	79%	26%
b. Solar panels to heat space in homes	78	29%
c. Wood stoves to heat space in homes.	90	30%
d. Solar swimming pool, hot tub or spa heaters.....	58	31%
e. Solar cells to produce electricity.	55	32%
f. Small windmills to produce electricity.....	50	33%
g. Using farm wastes to produce gas for fuel.....	68	34%
h. Passive solar design such as having houses face towards the south; using walls, floors, ceilings or water containers for heat storage; using skylight for heat, etc.....	71	35%